

258
Up to Oct. 27, 1967: 2,458 U.S.
Planes Downed in North Viet Nam



VIETNAM COURIER

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October 24, 25, 26 and 27:
U.S. RAIDS ON HANOI

40 AMERICAN PLANES DOWNED (Including 29 over HANOI) MANY PILOTS CAPTURED

STATEMENT OF THE D.R.V.N.
FOREIGN MINISTRY

- ☆ This Is a New, Extremely Brazen Escalation, an Utterly Odious Crime Against the Vietnamese People.
- ☆ The Vietnamese People Are Resolved to Fight till Final Victory.

(PAGE 3)



● A U.S. plane downed over Hanoi

● Capture of an American pilot in Truc Bach Lake

AMERICAN TROOPS HAVE USED GENOCIDE WEAPONS AGAINST SOUTH VIET CIVILIANS

GIÁI PHONG Press Agency reported that the Bertrand Russell Tribunal 6th Investigation Team, which visited East Nam 35 held a press conference to make known the results of its investigation concerning American war crimes. It was composed of Dr. M. Krivin, a surgeon; Professor F. Kahn and Roger Fr. film maker.

Were present at the conference the Venerable Thich Thien Hoa, member of the President of the N.F.L. Central Committee, Head of the Commission to Denounce U.S. War Crimes in South

Viet Nam. Ung Ngoc Ky, member of the President of the N.F.L. Central Committee, Secretary General of the Commission to Denounce U.S. War Crimes in South Vietnam, representatives of *GiáI Phong* Radio and *GiáI Phong* Press Agency, local press correspondents and photographers.

On behalf of the Investigation Team, Dr. Krivin read a statement about the American crimes which it had investigated at the spot.

Ta Bang village with 350 households and 1,700 inhabitants was attacked by B-57s 3 times in 1955 and 6 times

in 1966. On April 24, 1966, its houses, rice and cattle were destroyed in a "mopping-up" operation involving 30 planes, cannons and 100 armoured vehicles. It was later daily hit by the air force and its artillery for two consecutive months.

It was sprayed with toxic chemicals 3 times in 1965 and 6 times in 1966. Since 1960, it has lost 100 men killed, 107 wounded, i.e. 1 person killed or wounded out of 8 inhabitants. 1,398 houses demolished, many of them re-built several times, 400 hectares of rice fields destroyed, apart from kitchen gardens and other fields under

secondary food crops devastated. Hao Dao village, 3 kilometers from the cross village of U.S. base of Trang Lon, has about the same number of inhabitants as Ta Bang. It was nine times sprayed with toxic chemicals. Since 1966, it has been the target of two large-scale "sweeps" and twelve helicopter commando raids. It had among other things 4 schools and 1 health centre destroyed and 200 hectares of rice fields devastated.

Hiep Hoa village, 3 km from Hao Dao, has 600 inhabitants. One of its hamlets with 90 houses was wiped out at the beginning of 1966 after three B-57 raids (7 planes for each raid).

In April 1966, 2 enemy battalions burnt to ashes 30 houses in the village, killed buffaloes and oxen which they threw into wells to pollute them. In August 1966, 7 Dakota-type planes sprayed toxic chemicals on the village. In February 1967, the Team expressed its admiration for the people's "miraculous resistance" and particularly for the achievements of the health service in liberated areas.

In the Team members' opinion, the Vietnamese people were determined to carry on their resistance no matter how long it might last and in spite of difficult conditions about by U.S. weapons, they would never give up their right to decide their own fate.

The Team carefully investigated U.S. crimes in Ta Bang, Hao Dao and Hiep Hoa villages of Chau Thanh district (Tay Ninh province) 70 kilometers northwest of Saigon. There and in other places it saw victims of napalm, phosphorus, C.B.U.

bombs, toxic chemicals — areas forbidden by mankind. It found at the Tay Ninh hospital farm from Da Nang Dien, An Ninh... who had been wounded in the fields by F-4 jets informed by L-19 reconnaissance planes.

The Team inspected the effect of toxic chemicals on leaves and branches. It examined a yellow powder — lacrymatory and aerosolatory — contained in a canister dropped in the course of an operation on May 1966 on Lo Go (Tay Ninh).

The investigations, Dr. Krivin pointed out, were intended to find answers to the following questions: Did U.S. troops want to exterminate civilian population and its means of living? Did they use such genocidal weapons as C.B.U.s and toxic chemicals, and to what extent?

On the basis of its own remarks, and of evidence from 50 victims of facts contained in 131 testimonies and of various reports from N.F.L. cadres, the Team reached the following conclusions:

"In South Viet Nam, American weapons have essentially been used against civilians to terrorize them and forcibly concentrate them into 'strategic hamlets'. The U.S. Air Force has used on a great scale C.B.U. bombs, napalm, phosphorus and toxic chemicals against civilians and their sources of life."

After a stay of several weeks in South Viet Nam, the Team expressed its admiration for the people's "miraculous resistance" and particularly for the achievements of the health service in liberated areas.

The Team members' opinion, the Vietnamese people were determined to carry on their resistance no matter how long it might last and in spite of difficult conditions about by U.S. weapons, they would never give up their right to decide their own fate.

According to the London Times of Oct. 17, this troop of 500 U.S. Johnson of the Congress objection that the allies of the U.S. left it fight the war alone. On Oct. 20, 1967, the dispatch of additional [satellite] troops to Viet Nam was seen [..] as a psychological device designed to help shore up President Johnson's political position on the war effort."

It is clear that the introduction of additional military troops into South Viet Nam no longer produces any impact on the battlefield. The dispatch of additional [satellite] troops to Viet Nam was seen [..] as a psychological device designed to help shore up President Johnson's political position on the war effort."

The more the U.S. increases its troops in South Viet Nam, the more it reveals its defeat. Should Australian and New Zealand (as well as Thailand — Ed.) rulers obviously intend to help the U.S. aggressors in Viet Nam, they should certainly share the fate of the U.S. aggressors."

On the Occasion of the Soft Landing of Automatic Station "Venus 4" on Venus

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S MESSAGE to Soviet Party and State Leaders

To Comrades:

L.I. BRIZHNEV, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U.
N.V. PODGORN, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.
A.N. KOSYGIN, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R.

Dear Comrades,

In the stirring atmosphere of emulation in production and fighting to record achievements to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the Vietnamese people are greatly excited at learning that the Soviet Union has for the first time in the history of mankind, achieved the soft landing of a scientific research station, "Venus 4", on the planet Venus.

This is a new, marvellous exploit of Soviet science, a long stride forward of man on the way into space.

On behalf of the Vietnamese people, the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, I am very glad to convey to you, the Soviet people, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Government of the U.S.S.R., our warmest congratulations.

I wish the Soviet people and all scientists, engineers and workers in space science in the Soviet Union may more and greater successes.

With communist greetings,
Hanoi, October 30, 1967
HO CHI MINH



On this occasion, Truong Chinh, Chairman of the National Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland, member of the Political Bureau of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, has sent a message expressing warm congratulations to the Soviet people and the Government of the U.S.S.R. on the achievement of the soft landing of the automatic station "Venus 4" on the planet Venus.

The Viet Nam Federation of Trade Unions, the Association for the Popularization of Science and Technology, the Viet Nam Women's Union, the Viet Nam Peace Committee and the Viet Nam-Soviet Friendship Association have also sent congratulations to their Soviet counterparts.

PHOUMA SKELERED SLANDER

SOUVANNA PHOUMA met President Johnson on October 20 and 21, 1967. Before that meeting, he had repeatedly expressed his deep admiration for the American people. In Washington he continued the same calumny and went so far as to say to the U.S. to civil. He was quoted by *UPI* as saying to Johnson that "North Viet Nam invades Laos", and that he "welcomes Johnson's support to Laos' neutral policy as stipulated in the 1962 Geneva Agreements." Regarding the Viet Nam problem he said Johnson and Dean Rusk's allegations of a communist threat and shamelessly said that "about the U.S. not stay in South Viet Nam, South-East Asia would have fallen under communist influence."

All those who respect the truth would understand that the signing of the two Agreements on Laos was aimed at preventing the U.S. to intervene in and invade Laos and guaranteeing the independence, sovereignty and neutrality and unity of Laos. These agreements have denied the SEATO bloc the right to put Laos under its "umbrella". Pursuing its policy of aggression, the U.S. has brazenly violated these agreements

D.R.V.N. FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

on the Oct. 25 U.S. Air Raid Against Hanoi

On October 25, 1967, the United States sent many waves of aircraft to attack a number of populated areas in the centre of Hanoi city, the Long Bien bridge, the Gia Lam district town and a locality in the northern part of the capital. Particularly savage is that U.S. aircraft dropped a lot of steel-pellet bombs on a number of the most crowded streets in Hanoi Kien Giang street. Earlier, on October 23 and 24, American aircraft fired missiles on a heavily populated area on Hanoi's suburbs.

This is a new, extremely brazen step in their war escalation against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, an utterly odious crime against the Vietnamese people.

For nearly two months now, the U.S. has continually attacked Hai Phong city. With all kinds of aircraft including B-57s and with long-range artillery, they also attacked in an extremely savage manner the Demilitarized Zone, Vinh Linh area and Quang Binh province.

In South Viet Nam, the U.S. has just dispatched, to some more brigades of American troops, increased its bloody raids, massacred the Vietnamese people and, at the same time, pressed

its satellites—Australia and New Zealand—to supply more mercenaries to it. In this conjuncture, the brazen attacks by U.S. aircraft on the centre of the capital of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and its suburbs clearly show that the recent statement of U.S. President L. Johnson on a "search for peace" is an entirely deceitful manoeuvre to fool public opinion and cover up the U.S. war intensification in Viet Nam. The Johnson Administration has thrown a very insolent challenge to the American people and the peoples of the world who are energetically fighting their own country against the Vietnamese people, resolutely demanding that the U.S. aggressors stop unconditionally their bombing and other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and stop at once their aggression against Viet Nam.

For the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, for peace in Asia and the world, the Vietnamese people are resolved to fight till final victory. There is no doubt that the more the U.S. aggressors "escalate" their war, the heavier their defeats.

Hanoi, October 30, 1967

AN ODIOS CRIME

STEEL PELLET BOMBS DROPPE ON POPULATED QUARTERS OF HANOI

In their raids against the capital of Hanoi, on Oct. 25 and 26, U.S. planes hit many populated areas in the town and in the suburbs, causing great damage to the civilians.

Rockets were fired on Tran Phu street on Oct. 25 and on Tran Quoc Tuon street the following day. On Oct. 25 steel-pellet bombs were dropped on many localities in the heart of the city such as Ngoc Son Pagoda, the banks of the Lake of Restored Sword, the tramcar station, Hang Xa, Hang Dic, Hang Voi streets, which were the most densely populated areas of Hanoi Kien Giang town quarter. The area hit by steel-pellet bombs on Hang Voi street was 500 m wide and 100 m long.

Phouma's chameleon behaviour cannot cover up the crimes of the U.S. against the peoples of Laos and Viet Nam. At a moment when the U.S. imperialism is intensifying its aggression against Viet Nam and stepping up their "special war" in Laos, Phouma's ignominious statement publicly betrays the U.S. and betrays the interests of the peoples of Laos and Indo-China.

The steel pellets released by mother bombs — many of them having a delayed action — fell into the streets, in dwelling houses and even into A.A. shelters to kill the civilian population, including children, women and old folk.

Little Ngoc, aged 3, living near the Choung Vang The Do theatre, had her face and body covered with steel pellets. Sinh working in that theatre was killed by steel-pellet bombs on his way to save his mother wounded by such a bomb. Truong Trung, 7, living in Hang Xa street, was wounded by a pellet bomb falling near his shelter.

The use of steel-pellet bombs to strike at the most populated quarters of Hanoi is a crime abhorred by mankind. The Vietnamese people improve this hatred deeply into their mind and are resolved to mete out due punishment to the aggressors. People of conscience in the U.S. cannot wink at this monstrous crime.

SATO'S CRIMINAL TRIP

In carrying out his plan for a South-East Asian young Japanese Prime Minister Sato arrived in South Viet Nam. But in Saigon, only one sixth of his plan was achieved, or in other words he stayed there for only 4 hours instead of one day as planned. Unlabeled were sent and angry everywhere in the city, opposing Sato and exposing the traitorous nature of Thieu and Ky, lacking No 1 and No 2 of U.S. imperialism.

In this trip, Sato had advanced every kind argument to cover up his sinister design. He claimed that this was a fact-finding tour aimed at seeking a peaceful solution to the Viet Nam problem, and that Japan was not a belligerent party and not involved in military activities in Viet Nam. But to knowledgeable people, an owl cry could in no way dispel the shadows of the night.

Sato's trip to Saigon was a criminal trip. The Japanese government headed by him is an accomplice of U.S. imperialism. It has been helping a helping hand to the U.S. in its aggressive war in Viet Nam. The Sato clique has allowed the U.S. to use 147 bases in Japan as logistic and staging bases for this war of aggression. It has undertaken to produce and supply arms, munitions, napalm bombs, toxic chemicals and other military goods to the U.S. to use in Viet Nam. It has recruited thousands of seamen to handle U.S. military equipment in South Viet Nam. It has granted aid amounting to tens of millions of dollars to the Saigon puppet regime and sent a "peace corps" to participate in the U.S. "pacification programme" in South Viet Nam. It is also scheming to amend the constitution with a view to sending Japanese troops abroad to serve the U.S. war plans.

It is clear that the policy of the Sato government is to rely on the U.S. enter into collusion with it mutually, economically and politically, and serve the U.S. imperialism. Sato's mission in Viet Nam and Asia, and by all that, speed up the revival of militarism and realize its own expansionist policy. Sato's trip to Saigon is a continuation of that policy, and a striking proof of the aggressive nature of Japanese monopoly capitalists. The Japanese papers, *Asahi* and *Yomiuri* have pointed out that Sato's trip to South Viet Nam marked an important turning point in Japan's foreign policy.

This turning point is Japan's deeper involvement in the aggressive war in Viet Nam, its new interests, its new role in the political, in the Viet Nam issue, and its unrelenting support for Johnson's placemen — the Thieu-Ky clique.

MORE SATELLITE CANNON FODDER FOR JOHNSON'S WAR

At a time when the protest movement against the U.S. policy of aggression in Viet Nam reached its climax in the U.S. in harmony with the common action in other capitals and all over the world, a number of U.S. satellites urged by the White House, made known their decision to increase their combat troops in South Viet Nam. On Oct. 17, Hon. Australian Prime Minister, and Hon. New Zealand Prime Minister, declared their intention. As disclosed by foreign reports, Wellington would send another infantry company of 700 men, and New Zealand would raise Australian troop strength from 6,500 to over 8,000, about the size of a full division. Later on, the Thai government after the dispatch of 2,300 troops to Saigon, it might possibly increase this contingent to 3,000 troops. The Australian and New Zealand troops would send pilots to join the American air force in bombing North Viet Nam, along with the bombardment of the D.R.V.N. by Australian warships which have been operating jointly with the U.S. 7th Fleet for quite a while now.

Inconceivable, these moves are dangerous acts of war and crude violations of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and international law, which are inconsistent with the interests of the Asian peoples and the Thai people themselves and of peace-lovers round the world. In the immediate future, granting that these extra troops

may help relieve to some extent the serious manpower shortage faced by the U.S. on the South Viet Nam battlefield, what use can this piecemeal troop increase be for the half a million odd American and satellite troops and nearly a hundred thousand soldiers now bogged down in the quagmire of the aggressive war? Then why have the U.S. and its satellites taken this step? The answer overrode this as "decisions of important significance".

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THREE DAYS OF BRILLIANT VICTORIES in HANOI

OCTOBER 24, 1967

At 15:25 hours, over 30 U.S. planes raided Hanoi. Hidden in the clouds, F-4's and F-105's flew in the direction of the sun and nose-dived to drop explosive bombs and C.R.U. bombs. Our anti-air batteries immediately combined their action with our surface-to-air missile units and broke up their formations.

A plane set afire fell a kilometre from an A-1 gun emplacement.

The second attack was launched with missiles 12 minutes later by many groups of F-4's. In spite of a cloudy

sky, we succeeded in downing two aircraft within two minutes.

At 15:48 hours a formation of F-105's turned up. One of them was hit and crashed to the ground.

At 16 hours the enemy hoped to profit by thick clouds to strike us. Our combatants calmly fought them back and shot down one plane.

Thus, within less than one hour, the people's armed forces of Hanoi grounded 5 U.S. jet planes.

OCTOBER 25, 1967

At 0:55 hour, as soon as the alert was sounded ack-ack gunshots rent the calm night of Hanoi. American jet planes screamed away.

At 3:57 hours a new alarm was heard, followed by A-1 gun fire, testifying to the vigilance of the Hanoi armed forces and people.

At 7:33 hours U.S. planes appeared over the border between Hanoi capital and Vinh Phuc province. Two of them were shot down.

At 16:10 hours formations of Phantoms and Thunderchiefs

assailed Hanoi from several directions, flying at various altitudes, wave after wave, with a view to disturbing our defence network. But our people's armed forces calmly carried out their defence plan, downing an F-4.

Fire and smoke rose from a quarter in central Hanoi hit by U.S. bombs and rockets, thus exasperating our fighters.

The first attack over enemy planes launched a second one, varying their altitudes and their intervals and dashing from one direction. The leading plane of the first formation, an F-105, was hit. It burnt like a torch and fell to the ground. Three others met the same fate, exploding into pieces or cut in two by a rocket or blazing in the air.

The third attack took place twenty minutes later. U.S. planes turned up again at different heights, but this time from the southeast and the northeast. They dropped explosive bombs and C.B.U. bombs on thickly populated areas then hurried away. 3 of them were grounded.

Thus 8 U.S. planes were shot down over Hanoi on the 25th. The pilots who survived

were all captured.

The victories of Hanoi on October 25 once more proved that the more monstrous crimes the U.S. aggressors commit in the D.R.V.N., the more severely they are punished.

OCTOBER 26, 1967

At 11:50 hours U.S. planes began their attack. Unlike the two previous days, they came one by one, from many directions, striking with bombs and missiles. Our combatants skilfully coordinated their action, choosing the most favourable opportunities to hit rising or diving planes with missiles.

As a result, 10 U.S. planes were shot down, many pilots captured.

The fact that 23 planes have been downed in three days running over Hanoi is no glory for the U.S. air force. It shows that U.S. losses increase in proportion to its escalation.

In the wake of their victories, the inhabitants of Hanoi and their armed forces have inflicted heavier defeats on the U.S. aggressors the following days.

The Platoon of Old Militiamen of Thanh Hoa Downs Another U.S. Jet Plane

On Oct. 24, 1967 at 4:30 p.m. 3 AD6 jets attacked H. village, Hoang Hoa district, Thanh Hoa province. Armed with infantry weapons, the platoon of old militiamen of that village downed one of them.

It is to be remembered that the same platoon had downed on Oct. 14 a Skyhawk and had been awarded a Military Exploit Order, third class.

LATEST NEWS:

On Oct. 27, 6 U.S. planes were downed over Hanoi (not including the one downed in the night).

PLASTIC ARTS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM AT WAR

In spite of its fierceness, the fight being waged by the Vietnamese people has not distracted them from creative activities. On the contrary, they draw from it unending inspiration. Everywhere, from town to countryside, from the coastal regions to the mountain areas, men and women, young and old, to whatever ethnic group they belong, supply our artists and writers with rich and vivid themes for their creations: fighters of the various services of the People's Army who, by dint of courage and resourcefulness, inflict extremely serious losses on the American aggressors; workers and peasants who strive to obtain the maximum output from their fields and factories, shoot down aggressive jets with infantry weapons, thus contributing to explode the myth of "U.S. air supremacy"; young volunteers repairing bridges and roads in spite of delayed-action bombs; children going to school, anti-aircraft gunners between two enemy raids; the first-aid girl always present at the most dangerous places; the grandma bringing tea to the gunners; the courageous fisherman facing 7th-Flot vessels every day...

Many exhibitions, recitals, theatrical performances have been organized in towns and even villages to present new works born in the fire of the national struggle against American aggression.

We reproduce in this page a few paintings and sculptures presented at a plastic arts exhibition opened in Hanoi on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of its liberation, October 10 last.



PHOTOS

- From top to bottom, from left to right:
- DEFENDERS OF MINES, sketch for woodcut by Tran Van Cam.
- WOMAN GUERRILLA IN THE HIGHLANDS, woodcut by Nguyen Thu.
- YOUNG GIRL, sculpture.
- PEOPLE'S MILITIAMEN IN HAM BONG, sketch by Pham Ke An.
- BACK FROM THE FIELD, oil painting by Luu Cong Nhan.



WHAT HAS IMPRESSED ME MOST IN HANOI

Viet Nam Courier has asked Robert Allen, an American anti-war activist and staff reporter for the National Guardian, to give his impressions during his recent visit to the D.R.V.N.

MR. ROBERT ALLEN: I think in a way what has impressed me most in the two weeks I've been in the D.R.V. might be illustrated by the several walks I've taken around Hanoi.

For an American to wander at will through the streets of Hanoi without an interpreter or other escort is at first a surprising and puzzling experience. The appearance of bustling normalcy in the city is surprising. U.S. bombs apparently have done little to dampen the spirits of the people or disrupt the functioning of the city.

Despite the fact that a large part of the population has been evacuated, people are everywhere and in constant movement, with the bicycle being the favorite form of transportation. But troops and military vehicles are not much in evidence, contrary to what one might have expected to see in a wartime capital.

Crowds fill the streets of

central Hanoi and the kiosks and small shops which line the sidewalks seem to do a brisk business. Trying not to bump into people while at the same time attempting not to stumble into one of the famous manhole bomb shelters which dot the city's sidewalks is a tricky affair.

Hanoi's beautiful Lake of the Restored Sword appears to be still popular with young couples, but the necessities of war have given it a more somber appearance than must have been true in past years. No boats sail upon the lake. Now and on its banks large bomb shelters have been constructed to protect park visitors in case of an American air raid. But through a surprising twist of fate, the somberness of this scene is relieved by the laughter of the flocks of young children who seem to delight in playing on the grass-covered knolls which are bomb shelters.

For an American, it is difficult to smile into the bright, inquiring faces of Hanoi's children. It is nearly

impossible to look at them without recalling the photographs of napalmed children or children whose bodies were perforated by the steel pellets scattered from U.S. fragmentation bombs. It is difficult to look at these children without also thinking of the U.S. planes which, even at that moment, are dropping "flak suppression" bombs on their brothers and sisters somewhere in North Viet Nam. But the children apparently have no such difficulty: To them a foreigner is an interesting and exciting creature, even if he is an American.

This is only one part of the puzzling experience of wandering around Hanoi. The United States government has launched a massive attack against North Viet Nam, yet it is possible for a U.S. citizen to stroll around the D.R.V.'s capital city, even to walk past occasional policemen and soldiers, without being stopped or interrogated.

Not only is it possible to stroll freely, but if you encounter a Hanoi citizen who speaks some French or English and you tell him that you are an American, instead of simply venturing his

(Continued page 7)

VIET NAM COURIER

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THREE OF THE MANY PILOTS CAPTURED IN HANOI

—Richard Eugene Smith, Service No 57993 (Above)

—John Sydney Mc Cain, lieutenant - commander, Service No 644787 (Left)

—Charles Donald Rice, lieutenant Jr, Service No 710566 (Right)



An F-105-D, one of the ten U.S. planes downed over Hanoi on Oct. 26.

REPEATED VICTORIES OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES

○ Puppet Division 25 C.P. 25km West of Saigon Stormed: Nearly 300 Men Including 100 Officers Wiped Out (Oct. 16). ○ A U.S. Base 2km Southeast of Con Tien Assaulted: 200 G.I.'s Put Out of Action, 4 Cannons Destroyed (Oct. 13). ○ A Column of Enemy Troops Landed 15km South of Quang Tri Town Attacked: 200 U.S. Marines Put out of Action (Oct. 10 and 12). ○ Puppet Troops Defence Line 20km South of Hue Broken Through: 200 Men Knocked Out (Oct. 7). ○ 1 Battalion of U.S. Infantry Division 1 Badly Mauled 66km Northwest of Saigon (Oct. 17).

CHO LON

ON Oct. 16, at 2 a.m. the People's Liberation Armed Forces (P.L.A.F.) assaulted a series of 7 enemy bases (including the C.P. of Puppet Division 25) in Duc Hoa district town, 25km west of Saigon, Gai Phung Press Agency reported.

At the C.P. of puppet Division 25, a down barracks were demolished, nearly all machines and the radio station were destroyed and 100 officers killed or wounded.

On the airfield of 18th division, two L-19 reconnaissance planes were destroyed. The petrol depot and ammunition dump burnt with big explosion until the next morning.

The P.L.A.F. also put out

of action a whole Ranger company, whittled down another company and destroyed or damaged 6 153mm and 105mm cannons.

The billet of American officers in the Duc Hoa military sector and a base of Battalion 4, Regiment 49, Division 25, were stormed, many barracks destroyed, over 100 enemy soldiers killed or wounded.

Parallel with this military attack, the people of Duc Hoa district town and along Road 9 from Duc Hoa to Hong Mon and Saigon rose up, punished the thugs and freed themselves from the enemy's grip.

ACCORDING TO Gai Phung Press Agency, at 0.15 hour on Oct. 13, the

P.L.A.F. overran an enemy post on Road 76, 2km southeast of Con Tien. After three hours' fighting, 300 Americans were killed or wounded, the signal center destroyed together with 4 105mm cannons, various kinds of weapons and many stores.

Three days before (Oct. 10) the P.L.A.F. had simultaneously attacked 3 encampments of Battalion 1, U.S. Marine Division 1, after it had landed on the southern bank of Nung River, 35km west of Hai Lang district capital. After 30 minutes' fighting 2 enemy platoons and a company staff were wiped out and a great quantity of weapons seized.

On Oct. 23, the P.L.A.F. intercepted an enemy column

10km southwest of Hai Lang district capital, putting out of action another 3 platoons. Thus in the night of Oct. 10 and on Oct. 13, over 300 American Marines were annihilated.

Previously, on Oct. 4 and 5, the guerrillas and local troops attacked the enemy 10-km north of Dong Ha, wiping out 200 enemy troops (including 125 G.I.'s) downed a jet fighter F-4H, and destroyed 4 armoured cars.

THU DAU MOT

ACCORDING TO Western reports, on Oct. 17, the P.L.A.F. intercepted a battalion of U.S. Infantry Division 1, 66km north of Saigon.

UPI acknowledged on Oct. 18 that 58 G.I.'s had been killed and 61 others wounded. The killed battalion commander was Lieutenant Colonel Terry Allen Jr., son of Terry Allen Sr., a retired general who commanded Infantry Division 1 in Europe during World War II.

Recalling the horror he had experienced, first Sergeant Jose A. Valdes told an AP correspondent: "The Viet Cong (the P.L.A.F.) were set up and waiting just like a cat getting ready to pounce and that's what they did." Specialist 4 James Schultz said: "There was nothing really to get behind, nowhere to hide. They were just on all sides of us. It was a perfect ambush."

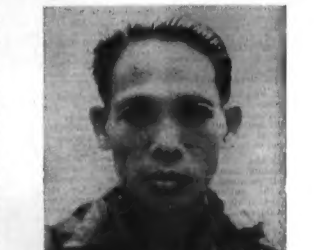
MORE than five years after he had got hold of a weapon — a 12mm Colt revolver out of order — and used it against the enemy and his 10-39 law (1) Don Van Chia spent sleepless nights again. Aircraft rained anti-personnel bombs in a number of localities in Nam Can district, Long My region, killing and injuring many people. A lot of those bombs were founded unexploded in ricefields, gardens, footpaths, inside houses and on tree branches. The people were afraid to move about and their cattle were confined to their stables all day long.

For three successive days Chia had in vain examined

The first test of the newly-designed weapon still bearing the trade-mark "Made in the U.S.A." resulted in the killing of two enemy soldiers right on the spot.

At that time the People's Liberation Armed Forces frequently storm adverse positions. His superiors told him to make mortar-shells. He took to pieces some captured from the enemy and a number of C.B.U.'s, comparing the structure of both. By removing some parts of a C.B.U. and replacing it with Bihars he finally obtained the result everybody expected from him. However, as no kind of launchers available suited his shell he thought of

acquired in the struggle against the French. He was also one of those few worthy sons of Nam Bo the "Brass Wall" (2), who had been canvassing hamlets to persuade the people to produce those rudimentary weapons for the defence of their native villages and then to ultimately encircle adverse posts and garrisons with. He painstakingly showed them how to proceed to get the best result possible. With 31 sorts of spiked traps and 10 of lever and land-mine traps to his credit, and the accord he played, Chia triggered off a widespread movement. Traps were made everywhere, by men and women, the old and the young, even by children.



A "SPECIALIST" OF RUDIMENTARY WEAPONS

carefully the tail of an exploded "butterfly" — that was the name given by the people to those bombs — without finding a way of unpriming an unexploded one. He was advised by many to discontinue his "research" and destroyed the bombs instead. Finally, however, he decided that he would defend them all so that the people might till their plots with their mind set at rest. He earnestly set to work and from the moment he took the first "butterfly" firm in his hand until he succeeded in removing the detonator he was wet in sweat. And then in a single night he managed to neutralize 400 bombs. Chia did not stop at that and went on researching so as to use the weapon against his user. After four days of study of all its components, he succeeded in turning a bomb shell into a grenade-trap.

a makeshift — a piece of bang, a species of bamboo with about several knots and other areas of Nam Bo. He strengthened the bang launcher with wires tightly coiled round it. Chia himself experimented his shells in an attack on a garrison at Long Binh: the first weapon in the right direction and exploded in the very centre of the fortress. The experiment proved no less accurate. The enemy's casualties amounted to nearly a score.

It was not without reason that the local people and his superiors trusted Chia's ability to make mortar shells. He was among the first patriots in Can Tho province who had been since the end of 1959, making in secret spiked lever, land-mine and other traps in prevision of the second resistance war, using the experiences he had

It was not unusual to see people who, after toiling in the daytime for a living, set up late at night busy sharpening spikes. Other used their daggers to cut the bamboo for the same purpose. Traps mushroomed everywhere: each family, each plot of land, each bridge, each place in brief, had its own kind of traps with, of course, varying degrees of complexity.

Chia was also the first in Can Tho to devise a straw man capable of firing shells, tossing hand-grenades or chopping up enemy formations, should they inadvertently step on a trigger. It ensured that the survivors dispersing in panic fell into traps laid in the vicinity.

Don Van Chia fully deserves the title of "specialist" in rudimentary weapons, awarded him by the people and Liberation troops. He owes this reward partly to one of his major successes: the raising of "fighting herons". To begin with he got stung and was levered for two or three days. But stop by stop, by merely observing the way they flew he could tell whether they lived somewhere in the neighbourhood or far away. Catching them is no easy job, bringing them up is much more difficult. They do not like heat nor excessive dry and damp weather. And if you put their nest in a wrong position, they leave you for ever.

By dint of patience Chia came to know which food best suited his "troops" and to tell aggressive ones which are always on the offensive, from defensive ones constantly on guard against worms and reptiles. He could recognise those in charge of "supply" and those who see

to the ventilation of the nest. He knew the way they defended themselves against hawks and other beasts of prey. Thanks to his proper care they grew up rapidly and he divided their initial nest into smaller ones that he planned in different places. He made strawmen, donning enemy uniforms and gradually trained the five sorts of herons under his command into fighters.

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(1) Law enacted under the Ngo Dinh Diem regime in October 1959, under which anyone accused of opposition was to be sent to the gaoles.

(2) Title awarded by President Ho Chi Minh to Nam Bo (South Viet Nam proper) in the Resistance against the French in 1945.